



# Creation Matters

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## Uncle Tom, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Creator Christ

by Paul G. Humber

**A**ddressing Harriet Beecher Stowe, President Lincoln said, “So this is the little lady who made this big war.” He was referring, of course, to the Civil War. Her tool was the worthy, historical novel, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.<sup>1</sup>

It is interesting to note that, though Stowe’s book was written some seven years prior to the publication of Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species*, there are perspectives contained therein implicitly rejecting evolutionary thinking. Evolution had been around long before Charles Darwin borrowed the notion of natural selection from others (without giving proper credit)<sup>2</sup> and amplified evolutionary thinking.

One of the main characters in Stowe’s book is Augustine St. Clare, twin brother of Alfred. Stowe applies the following words to Augustine concerning his brother:

“Alfred, who is as determined a despot as ever walked, does not pretend to this kind of defense;—no, he stands, high and haughty, on that good old respectable ground, *the right of the strongest*; and he says, and I think quite sensibly, that the American planter is ‘only doing, in another form, what

the English aristocracy and capitalists are doing by the lower classes;’ that is, I take it, *appropriating* them, body and bone, soul and spirit, to their use and convenience.” (p. 250)

This same character (a few pages earlier in the book) speaks of his father, who “considered the Negro, through all possible gradations of color, as an intermediate link between man and animals, and graded all his ideas of justice or generosity on this hypothesis” (p. 246).

### Uncle Tom

In addition, the phrase, “Uncle Tom,” has come to mean something quite degrading and different from the main character rep-

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*Rev. Josiah Henson, 1789-1883, apparently served as the historical personage behind the Uncle Tom character in Stowe’s book.*



## Why a Statement of Belief ?

by Kevin Anderson, Ph.D.

**W**e are frequently asked, “How can CRS claim to be scientific and yet have a statement of belief?” This is an interesting question, which seems to revolve around two fundamental issues.

First, the Creation Research Society (CRS) was initially founded as a society for young earth creationists, as opposed to progressive, old-earth “creationists” or theistic evolutionists, which have come to dominate the American Scientific Affiliation (ASA). I was not there, so cannot say first hand, but I have been told by some of the original organizers that they felt such a “statement” was necessary to keep CRS from gradually becoming another ASA.

Certainly, without such a statement, the ranks of the Society could potentially swell with members who do not hold a young earth creation position. This could include members who do not even hold to a creation position (as has clearly happened with ASA). In fact, without such a statement, an organization such as the National Center for Science Education (an evolution-promoting organization) could theoretically “flood” the Society’s ranks with members who are evolutionists; henceforth, the CRS would effectively no longer be a creationist society.

The second issue is the question of whether a scientific research organization can operate with a preconceived notion, as represented by the CRS’ Statement of Belief. While, theoretically, the practice of science should never be burdened with any human preconcep-

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resented in Stowe's book. To illustrate, it would be comparable to saying that Creator Christ was an "Uncle Tom" because He meekly submitted to the humiliation and indignity of the cross. But all Christians should know that the Savior was a far greater warrior than even His forefather David, who took down only one giant, Goliath. The Lord of glory, by meekly submitting to the ignominy of the cross, took on the world's greatest evils and won! He triumphed over Death, Sin, Satan, and Hell!

Correspondingly, the main character of Stowe's book, first to own the evolving name Uncle Tom, stood up against an evil incarnate, Simon Legree. To be sure, Tom willingly laid down his life for fellow slaves, but he also gained the victory! In other words, the character Uncle Tom was no mere "Uncle Tom" in the derogatory sense! In addition, his heart was huge; his love, magnanimous!

Tom was devoted to the Bible, and his language was "creationary" (as opposed to evolutionary). In offering counsel to his young master, George Shelby, Stowe put these words into the mouth of the valiant Uncle Tom:

"Be a good Mas'r, like yer father; and be a Christian, like yer mother. 'Member yer Creator in the days o' yer youth, Mas'r George." (p. 112)

Stowe's novel/documentary overflows with Scriptural allusions throughout, such as this to Ecclesiastes 12:1.

According to Stowe, Uncle Tom preached what he practiced. Prior to most of his trials, his wife, Aunt Chloe, warned her husband of future trials. Listen to Tom's brief sermon to her:

"I'm in the Lord's hands," said Tom; "nothin' can go no furdur than he lets it;—and thar's *one* thing I can thank him for. It's me that's sold and going down, and not you nur the chil'en. Here you're safe;—what comes will come only on me; and the Lord, he'll help me,—I know he will." (p. 104)

Returning to Augustine St. Clare, this

twin shared why he himself had not yet submitted to becoming a Christian:

"My view of Christianity is such," he added, "that I think no man can consistently profess it without throwing the whole weight of his being against this monstrous system of injustice that lies at the foundation of all our society; and, if need be, sacrificing himself in the battle. That is, I mean that I could not be a Christian otherwise, though I have certainly had intercourse with a great many enlightened and Christian people who did no such thing; and I confess that the apathy of religious people on

**"Be a good Mas'r, like yer father; and be a Christian, like yer mother. 'Member yer Creator in the days o' yer youth, Mas'r George." (p. 112)**

this subject, their want of perception of wrongs that filled me with horror, have engendered in me more skepticism than any other thing." (p. 340)

### Another evil in America

Applying these words of Stowe to modern times, it is sad indeed that there is now another evil in America that is every bit as evil as slavery. An estimated 30% of Americans align with the evil of "partial birth abortion," but Creator Christ Himself sanctified life in the womb, living there Himself for nine months.

Imagine the thought of some modern medical practitioner going back in time to Bethlehem, repositioning the Lord's body in Mary's womb so that feet would appear first, leading every part of the body out except the head, inserting an instrument into the base of Jesus' skull, sucking out His brain, pulling out the infant corpse, and then asking for a \$5,000 reward!

Slavery is evil, but at least some slaves lived. This new evil, not prevalent during the Civil War, does not allow a child even to see the light of day! Speaking of abortion in general, American babies are slaughtered by the millions, and twice as many non-

white babies are aborted as white babies!<sup>3</sup>

However, good still exists in America. There are modern-day Harriet Beecher Stowes reaching out in love to women in crisis pregnancy situations — providing support, loving care, clothing, and encouragement to young mothers and their rescued children. Stowe referred to Christian love a century and a half ago. One passage, involving Christian love and acceptance of George Harris, another main character of the book, is worth quoting. He had been escaping from slavery and had just recently been reunited to his heroic wife, Eliza, and their child (both also escaping from slavery). It reads as follows:

"This, indeed was a home,—home,—a word that George had never yet known a meaning for; and a belief in God, and trust in his providence, began to encircle his heart, as, with a golden cloud of protection and confidence, dark, misanthropic, pinning, atheistic doubts, and fierce despair, melted away before the light of a living Gospel, breathed in living faces, preached by a thousand unconscious acts of love and good-will, which, like the cup of cold water given in the name of a disciple, shall never lose their reward." (p. 155)

### Godless thinking

Previously, I have written articles showing that godless evolutionary thinking has fostered much death in the world. Stalin, for example, self-consciously adopted Darwin's

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thinking at a young age and threw out the Bible.<sup>4</sup> Millions suffered as a consequence. Hitler was a devout evolutionist and forced his views down Europe's throat. Like Alfred St. Clare's father, he viewed "the Negro ... as an intermediate link between man and animals."<sup>5</sup> Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, was also a practical evolutionist,<sup>6</sup> and her legacy is that a disproportionate number of babies of color are slaughtered in American "abortuaries."

Something far worse than a Civil War is ahead. Secular fundamentalists in America's "highest" institutions continue to promote the godless, evolutionary religion of secular humanism in the guise of science, but the Lord of Harriet Beech Stowe, Science Incarnate, is very much alive, having conquered death, and is returning to this planet some day! Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever, "cometh to judge the earth" (Psalm 96:13). Unrepentant secularists will experience Him

as a Consuming Fire! "Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and ye perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him" (Psalm 2:12).

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- 1 Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (New York: Signet Classic/Penguin Putnam, 1998).
- 2 Paul G. Humber, "Natural Selection—a Creationist's Idea," *Impact* (Institute for Creation Research, January 1997).
- 3 "In 1987, nonwhite women were more than twice as likely to have an abortion as white women." See *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 5, 1992, p. E2. Statistics were provided by the Alan Guttmacher Institute.
- 4 " 'I'll lend you a book to read; it will show you that the world and all living things are quite different from what you imagine, and all this talk about God is sheer nonsense,' Joseph (Stalin) said. 'What book is that?' I enquired. 'Darwin. You must read it,' Joseph impressed on me." See Paul G. Humber, "Stalin's Brutal Faith," *Impact* (Institute for Creation Research, October 1987).
- 5 The following phrases or terms, all from Hitler's

*Mein Kampf*, reveal an evolutionary framework of thinking: "Nature," "preserving," "breeding," "species," "stronger must dominate," "higher development," "higher breeding," "lower colored peoples," "struggle," "existence," "preservation of the species," "laws of development," "the natural law of all development," "victory of the stronger," "preservation," "higher development of living creatures," "life struggle," "species," "struggle for existence," "scientific knowledge," "mankind's struggle for existence," and "ruthless application of Nature's stern and rigid laws." For more, see Paul G. Humber, "A 'Moron' and a 'Liar,'" in *Creation Matters* (Creation Research Society, Sept.-Dec. 2000) and Paul G. Humber, "The Ascent of Racism" (Institute for Creation Research, February 1987).

- 6 Paul G. Humber, "Evolution and the American Abortion Mentality," *Impact* (Institute for Creation Research, May 1992).

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## Statement of Belief

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tion, I suggest that it is extremely naive to think that scientists do not constantly shape their conclusions in a cloud of preconceived ideas, especially in the area of origins (biological, geological, or astronomical).

### Preconceptions

When the renowned evolutionary biologist Theodosius Dobzhansky stated that “nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution” (Dobzhansky, 1973, p. 125), what he was saying was that everything he studies and thinks in biology must conform to his preconception of evolution. All his “conclusions” drawn from the results of experiments are molded within the framework of evolution.

When Donald Johanson or Richard Leakey excavates a site for fossils, they have very strong preconceived ideas about human evolution (not just that humans evolved, but the particular manner by which that evolution took place). And, any discoveries they make will immediately be fit within that preconception (by them and the entire evolutionary establishment).

This was very clearly demonstrated following Leakey’s discovery of the fossil specimen KMN-ER 1470. Previously, established dates for the site, which had supposedly been firmly and objectively established, were discarded when the evolutionary establishment realized they did not fit the “necessary” age for the 1470 skull. (To Leakey’s credit, he was never comfortable with the way a new date was established for 1470.) This preconceived idea of the “allowable” age for the fossil quickly became the overriding factor in interpreting the data of the fossil and determining its age.

In a similar manner, the current “scientifically established” age for the universe is totally dependent upon the cosmological preconceptions employed, namely the “Big Bang.” A change of cosmology preconceptions (such as “Steady State”) changes the conclusions about the universe’s age.

Since evolution is clearly the dominant position on origins held by scientists today, it is completely unnecessary for any

“evolutionary” society to have a statement of belief affirming a member’s loyalty. Even if all the creationists (and intelligent design advocates) in a particular branch of science joined a society, they would still be too small of minority to have an impact. So, the evolutionary position of the society is hardly “threatened” by those wacky anti-evolutionists’ taking control.

### Position statements

On the other hand, while these societies do not have an official belief statement as a prerequisite for membership, per se, often they do have position statements that amount to essentially the same thing. For example, the National Academy of Sciences

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(NAS) issued a very strong “pro-evolution” document a few years ago (NAS, 1998). In this document they echoed Dr. Dobzhansky by stating that evolution was “the most important concept in modern biology, a concept essential to understanding key aspects of living things” (1998, p. 8). This was not represented as one of many positions of the NAS on origins, or even as the position of some members. It was presented as *the* position of the academy.

Clearly the NAS approaches the issue of origins with its “mind already made up.” Is this not a preconceived notion held by the NAS, in effect a “Statement of Belief”? Either most of the members of the NAS apply this preconception to their research, or evolution has little impact on a scientist’s interpretation of data (the latter being the exact opposite of what their document claims is the case). I think the American Association for the Advancement of Science made a public pronouncement as well. Certainly the editorial position of their prominent journal, *Science*, makes their commitment to evolution perfectly clear.

### Editorial constraints

Another aspect of “preconception” is that, despite claims by evolutionists to the con-

trary, over the years I have heard or read statements by several journal editors saying that they would *never* publish any manuscript from a creationist institution, or a manuscript that favored creation. In fact, they would not even send it for review (i.e., the “science” must be flawed since it does not fit the preconceived notion of evolution; therefore it needs no review).

The uproar over the recent publication of Stephen C. Meyer’s intelligent design (ID) article (Meyer, 2004), and the castigation of the editor, Richard Sternberg, who allowed its publication, is a good example of this (see Klinghoffer, 2005). I have heard little constructive criticism of the scientific content of the article, but there has been abundant hysteria about the simple fact that the article was even published — clearly violating the “code” of not publishing anything that promotes creation (or ID in this case). What is more, I suspect most of these critics have not even read Dr. Meyer’s article. They just know it must be wrong since it does not sing the praises of evolution. There would certainly seem to be a preconceived notion involved in all this.

### Conclusion

So, while the belief statement may make the CRS unique (and seemingly contradictory to the practice of science) in some aspects, I suggest it makes the Society neither as unique nor contradictory as it may first appear.

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# Will Other States Follow Ohio's Example?

by Jerry Bergman, Ph.D.

**T**he controversy over teaching evolution is everywhere in the news today. The attempt by the state of Ohio to deal with this issue has now become a model for other states. The new Ohio science standards (Anonymous, 2002) include much about evolution — the word evolution (or its cognates) occur at least 74 times in the document. The standards also include the requirement that teachers of grades 10 through 12 “critically analyze” evolutionary theory (pp. 37, 132, and 225).

Since I teach in the life science area, I often ask students about their experiences in high school life science classes. Many claim the unit on evolution was skipped or only very briefly covered.

Conversely, several students have stated that they spent *over half* of the semester on Darwin's theory of evolution to the exclusion of much of the material that they felt should have been covered. One young lady (an “A” student) related that when she openly voiced her doubts about Darwinism in her high school biology class, her instructor got angry and stopped calling on her. She then spoke up without being recognized and ended up in the principal's office. She agreed to speak only when recognized by the teacher, but was never called upon (this experience ended her plans to become a college biology professor). Similar stories are not uncommon.

## Evolution defined

When discussing a concept, it is necessary to define it. Evolution is usually defined as the theory that all modern life forms originated as a result of the selection of beneficial mutations (mistakes in duplicating genes). Most all mutations are harmful or neutral, but a rare few mutations are believed to be beneficial, and it is these that, we are told, provide the variety from which natural selection can select. A leading high school biology text defines evolution as:

the conviction that matter is the stuff of all existence. . . . Darwinian evolution was not only purposeless but also heartless — a

process in which the rigors of nature ruthlessly eliminate the unfit. . . . The great human mind was no more than a mass of evolving neurons . . . there was no divine plan to guide us. (Levine and Miller, 1994, p. 161)

The text adds that opposition to materialism “drives much modern-day opposition to evolutionary thought.”

The media, almost without exception,

**. . . when she openly voiced her doubts about Darwinism in her high school biology class, her instructor got angry and stopped calling on her.**

are critical of any attempt to criticize Darwinism, let alone discuss alternative explanations, such as intelligent design. This may be why the Ohio standard requires teachers to:

Use historical examples to explain how *new ideas* are limited by the context in which they are conceived. *These ideas are often rejected by the scientific establishment*; sometimes [they] spring from unexpected findings; and usually grow slowly through contributions from many different investigators . . . (p. 63, emphasis mine)

## Polls

Although opposition to Darwinism has been strongly resisted by some, it has received widespread public support. For example, a recent CBS poll of Americans conducted just before the November, 2004 presidential election found that 55 percent of all Americans believe that God created humans in their present form in the recent past, and an additional 27 percent believe that God guided the process (Hurdle, 2005). In short, this poll found 82 percent of all Americans are in some way theistic creationists.

Similar studies constantly find that close to 90 percent of all Americans hold to some form of theistic creationism (Bergman, 1999). Furthermore, nearly all studies, including those done by Gallup since the 1970s, find that about 90 percent of all Americans believe that both sides of the creation-evolution controversy should be taught in public schools (Bergman, 1999). Only around 10 percent believe that only naturalistic evolution should be taught.

Research has also found that a large percentage of teachers are some form of creationists. A study of teachers in Oklahoma, completed in 1999, found that 25 percent of public life-science teachers placed at least moderate emphasis on biblical creationism, and 48 percent believed that strong scientific evidence exists for creationism (Cavanagh, 2005).

I have found from surveys of my students at various schools where I have taught (including Bowling Green State University, Medical College of Ohio, and the University of Toledo) that between 90 and 100% of all students are in favor of instruction criticizing Darwinism, as well as learning information supporting not only intelligent design, but also creationism. In many ways, the media, academia, and many practicing scientists are in a different world than are both the public and students. Indeed, the media and academia seem to live in a different world than the rest of us.

## Unscientific presuppositions

Some argue that teaching alternatives to Darwinism is a violation of separation of church and state, yet one cannot talk about life's origins without involving theology. The conflict was best illustrated by Alvin Plantinga (professor at the University of Notre Dame) and University of California, Berkeley, professor Huston Smith. They convinced the National Association of Biology Teachers to change its statement on evolution. For years, the association's official position read: “The diversity of life on earth is the outcome of evolution: an unsupervised, impersonal, unpredictable and nat-

ural process.”

Plantinga and Smith objected to this claim, noting that the conclusion that evolution is “unsupervised” and “impersonal” goes well beyond the scientific evidence. The association agreed, and so dropped these words. Plantinga stated,

There’s no way, simply on the basis of physical science, that you could have discovered that the process is unsupervised or impersonal. . . . There is so much heat in this area — people’s faith, people’s ideology is involved — that often straightforward, rational discussion doesn’t work well” (quoted in Stowe, 1998, p. 1).

Stowe (1998), editorializing about this incident, noted that “Plantinga and Smith are among a growing number of Christian scholars, including scientists, who challenge what they consider to be the unscientific presuppositions of modern culture with respect to evolution.” Plantinga concluded that evolutionism

is by no means merely a scientific doctrine . . . It is about naturalism vs. theism, naturalism vs. American religious belief, naturalism vs. Christianity. They think science has shown that human beings are not really created by God. That’s not true at all. That’s not science. That’s theology. It’s bad theology because it’s theology confused with science.

In harmony with this observation, Andrew Bocarsly, professor of chemistry at Princeton University, and Robert Kaita, principal research physicist at the Plasma Physics Laboratory at Princeton University, noted that “the *appearance* of design was never an issue through the times of Charles Darwin, or even to the present. Rather, the challenge to Darwin and his contemporaries was to explain apparent design without resorting to a ‘designer’.” They conclude that, just as with a crime investigation,

it clearly does matter whether or not there is “design,” and by implication a designer, behind what we observe. For those who wish to exclude *a priori* the possibility of an “intelligent agent,” the motive is based not on “just the facts” but on philosophical prejudice. This

is a difficult admission for many Darwinists. They feel that it is those who question Darwinism, and they alone, who show philosophical or, equivalently, religious preference. (quoted in Woodward, 2003, p. 212)

## A better way

It is my personal proclivity to scrupulously avoid discussing in science classes what has been traditionally labeled religion. A lot of teachers have for years ignored the whole issue to avoid problems. In view of the new standards, though, this approach will no longer suffice in Ohio. The question that now has to be asked is “how can teachers teach evolution without upsetting anyone?” Many teachers find that letting the students themselves debate the issue in class is a very fruitful approach. Let them do the research and present their findings. Then encourage class discussion (or even debate).

I have found, in my over 30 years of teaching science from elementary through college, that more interest and enthusiasm results when students debate this topic than almost any other area covered in biology classes! It is also a topic that touches on not only biology, but also chemistry, geology, anthropology, and even psychology.

The teacher’s role is to encourage discussion and serve as a facilitator. His or her job is not to indoctrinate but to open minds to new ideas, to help students develop tolerance toward each other’s views, and to discourage name calling of those with a different view (such as an “atheist” or a “fundamentalist,” a response that is common among unenlightened persons). Professor Giberson (2004) expressed his concern about why the topic of origins is avoided in schools in the following words:

America’s troubled conversation over origins is a sad example of how good intentions can go so far astray. Once upon a time, some wise men decided that the government should stay out of religion, a concept that has come down to us as the “separation of church and state.” For the most part, it works very well. This well-intentioned political arrangement, however, has resulted in a scenario that now prevents biology students from raising their hands and asking, “If

evolution is true, does that mean that God did not create the world?” Wondering how to square religious affirmations that God is creator with contemporary science is a solid exercise in critical thinking.

Deep thinkers from Thomas Aquinas to Sir John Polkinghorne have engaged this topic. Islamic and Jewish scholars have pondered this question. Variations of it have emerged in every religion, and books have been written in response. But when students raise their hands to ask the very question that has engaged the deepest thinkers on our planet, the door to the classroom bursts open and lawyers rush in to make sure the teacher does not respond. What kind of educational disaster have we created in America that prevents students from even asking certain types of very important questions? Is it a coincidence that countries that let their students ask these questions have far less controversy over origins?

To this I add a hearty amen.

## Who decides

In answer to the question of who decides what, if any, critiques of evolution get into the curriculum, First Amendment Center senior scholar Charles Haynes (2004) concluded that the

short answer is — or should be — scientists decide. But many in the science establishment worry that teaching the controversy — even conflicts among scientists about some aspects of evolutionary theory — would open the door to creationist or other religious views. That’s why so many scientists and science educators oppose any attempt to expose kids to debate over intelligent design or any other challenge to evolution.

The problem with this approach, Haynes concludes, is that the

strategy of exclusion may win court cases (at least thus far), but it shuts down the debate. And shutting down debate isn’t good for academic freedom or critical

thinking. Moreover, it doesn't work. Without understanding this controversy (and some of the historical and philosophical reasons for it), many students will continue to resist or distrust the claims of science.

Some object that "teaching the controversy" will "confuse students and undermine the prevailing theory." Haynes argues that this claim is unfounded. He gives as an example the April 2002 issue of *Natural History* that included brief position statements by

three proponents of intelligent design — and three responses from evolutionists. Surely there's room in the public school curriculum for exposing students to this debate and helping them to engage the issues.

Haynes further concludes that if the

aim of science education is scientific literacy, then students must learn the prevailing theories in science. But if we expect them to

believe what they hear, they must also learn something about the conflicts and controversies surrounding those theories. For anyone who cares about good science education, winning court battles isn't enough. Winning the hearts and minds of students is what really counts.

So much material is presented in textbooks and lectures as if it is known fact, but is actually not true. For example, for over a decade I have been telling my science students that humans have 100,000 genes. Now, it turns out, the number may be closer to 30,000 but, in fact, we do not know the number. Yet every one of the biology textbooks we have used at the college where I now teach gave the 100,000 number as if it were a proven fact. The more I learn, the more I realize that what is commonly assumed to be fact is not supported by scientific evidence (and may not even be true). This fact should remind us not to teach science dogmatically, but as knowledge that should be critically evaluated.

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# Evolution Fails Predictability — Creation Passes

by Paul G. Humber

**O**n November 20, 2003, I was involved in a debate with Dr. Brian Richmond of George Washington University's Anthropology Department. The topic of our debate was: *Should Public Schools Include Only Science that Supports Evolution, or Also Include Science that Refutes Evolution?* After individual presentations, we sat as panelists responding to questions from the audience.

I have recently reviewed a videotape of the debate. During the question-and-answer time, Dr. Richmond explained fossilization. He said that there would no longer be any carbon or bone in dinosaur fossils. Rock mineral would replace "all the original bone." To this, I responded that one can find some dinosaur bones, supposedly 65 millions years old, with some collagen still remaining. I offered to send Dr. Richmond information about this report.

Recent revelations in the journal *Science* (Schweitzer, 2005) seem to vindicate the creationary position which I had es-

poused (that dinosaur bones can still have original protein), and show the evolutionary position (that dinosaur bones can have no original materials present due to their supposed millions-of-years antiquity) to be flawed.

The first sentence from the recent article reads as follows: "Soft tissues are preserved within the hindlimb elements of *Tyrannosaurus rex* (Museum of the Rockies specimen 1125)." The final paragraph makes the following admission: "These data indicate that exceptional morphological preservation in some dinosaurian specimens may extend to the cellular level or beyond."

Of course, *Science* does not want to vindicate, or even simply affirm, the creationist position, so language in the article seems to be rather guarded. The word "may" in the second quoted statement above is one example. Also, the article speculates that there may be "some kind of unknown geochemical replacement process" (p. 1955) taking place, thus providing yet another

last-straw "out" from potential creationary conclusions.

Dr. Richmond was less guarded with me, however. For example, I wrote the following to him on the day after our debate: "I'm taking the liberty of attaching an article from *Science News* (10/3/92, p. 213) concerning protein in dinosaur bone. You seemed to be unaware of such."

Five days later, Dr. Richmond responded: "Thank you for the journalist report on claims of finding dinosaur protein. From the researchers' interviews, it is clear that it had not yet passed the rigorous scrutiny of other researchers. Now that it's been over a decade, do you know if their tentative report has been substantiated, or was it just contamination?"

Notice that, in the above exchange, Dr. Richmond continued to be skeptical. He categorized the *Science News* article as a "journalist report," speculating that it had not yet passed "rigorous scrutiny." He then suggested the possibility of contamination.

In short, Dr. Richmond revealed his evolutionary bias, consistent with his position in the debate, that dinosaurs 65 million years old cannot retain protein.

On March 25, 2005, following the reported finding of *T. rex* soft tissues, I again wrote to Dr. Richmond asking, "Did you see this? Maybe the dino-samples are not as old as evolution assumes! Comment?" Along with this note I sent a copy of an article from the *NewScientist* news service concerning this report (Hecht, 2005).

Dr. Richmond responded with these words:

When I came to work this morning, the earth looked flat. Comment? I've attached the original scientific papers because I'm certain you wouldn't want to base your knowledge of science on layperson media reports. Enjoy, Brian.

Here is some of what I wrote in response:

Thank you for the articles. You wrote, 'When I came to work this morning, the earth looked flat.

Comment?' It seems now . . . that the 'rigorous scrutiny' you sought (a year and a half ago) has been met. When we look at an Egyptian mummy, things are pretty disintegrated, and these mummies were 'preserved.' Multiply 3,000 (approx. age of mummies) by a factor of 22,000 and you get the supposed age of dinosaurs. Does it not stretch the boundaries of your credulity to imagine dinosaur tissue 22,000 **times** as old as mummies still having flexibility? You were skeptical 1.5 years ago; are you now allowing for that kind of stretch? What does it take to have people consider that the millions/billions notion is flawed? ... Cordially, Paul.

There are many other scientific reasons for doubting the millions/billions-of-years mentality of evolutionists. The recent *T. rex* article is yet another reason to believe the creation scenario over that of evolution. I feel something like the little girl who cried out, "The Emperor is naked!" On videotape a year and a half ago, I said that some

dinosaur bones still retain original tissue. Dr. Richmond disagreed, saying that all such tissue would be replaced by rock mineral. Since then, I have shown him the scientific data he had previously sought. Yet in spite of my showing him this evidence, he has responded with his evolutionary bias, couched in seeming sarcasm.

What do we take from this exchange? It appears that the evolutionary position has failed the test of some newer scientific revelations, and the creationist position has held strong. Though the words spoken a year and a half ago were not put into the form of an explicit hypothesis, the videotape does reveal the words, spoken by an evolutionist and a creationist, advocating competing ideas regarding the nature of fossil evidence.

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# Speaking of Science

Commentaries on recent news from science

## Molecular Motors Do Ballet

Scientists at the University of Illinois studied dynein and kinesin – the tiny molecular trucks that ferry cargo inside the living cell – and found that they are not just individualists: they cooperate in a delicate yet effective performance. Some scientists had thought that the two machine types, which travel in opposite directions, were involved in a constant tug of war with each other.

Instead, reports J. Kloeppel, the university's news bureau physical science editor, "The motors cooperate in a delicate choreography of steps."

Using high-speed imaging techniques, they determined that "multiple motors can work in concert, producing more than 10 times the speed of individual motors measured outside the cell." The machines move by "walking" on rails called microtubules, in steps, 8 billionths of a meter at a time. The team is measuring the force produced

- *Molecular Motors Do Ballet*
- *Butterflies Really Know How to Fly*
- *Go to the Roach, Thou Robotics Designer*
- *Whose Side Is Unenlightened?*
- *"Impressive" Memory Capabilities of Honeybees*
- *Soft Tissue from Dinosaurs Found: Intact Cells and Blood Vessels*
- *Descendants Can Overcome Parental Mutations*
- *Migration Theory Overturned: "Mammals Went Crazy" – Or Did Darwinists?*

by the motion to "further understand these marvelous little machines." There was no mention of evolution in the report.

Someone should put an animation of

these machines to the Blue Danube Waltz. It would be quite a show. Darwinists could be allowed to buy tickets as long as they set up their smoke screens outside.

Kloeppel, J.E. 2005. Molecular motors cooperate in moving cellular cargo, study shows. *News Bureau, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*, April 7, 2005.  
[www.news.uiuc.edu/news/05/0407molecularmotors.html](http://www.news.uiuc.edu/news/05/0407molecularmotors.html)

## Butterflies Really Know How to Fly

The path of a butterfly may appear haphazard to us, but there is a method to the fluttering. A UK team of scientists put transponders on butterflies and monitored their flight paths. They found that the looping paths appear to help with orientation and food detection. The rest of the time, the insects flew straight at speeds up to 6 miles an hour.





They appeared able to detect hazards from 200 meters, and food sources at 100 meters. See the BBC News story for more information.

On a related note, what may be the largest-ever migration of painted lady butterflies was reported to be underway in California. From the southern desert and coastal areas, they fly through the Central Valley, some making it all the way to Oregon.

What kind of engineering and programming must a tiny butterfly brain possess to engage in navigation, orienteering, and long distance flight? The most delicate of small creatures shows capabilities that would stump robotics experts. Help your kids appreciate not just the beauty but the technical abilities of these beautifully-decorated small wonders.

Anonymous. 2005. Butterflies 'follow flightpaths.' *BBC News*, April 6.  
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 Wright, S. 2005. Butterfly Migration Could Be Largest Known. *UC Davis News Service*, April 7.  
[www.news.ucdavis.edu/search/printable\\_news.lasso?id=7327&table=news](http://www.news.ucdavis.edu/search/printable_news.lasso?id=7327&table=news)

## Go to the Roach, Thou Robotics Designer

Most of us can't step on them fast enough, but of cockroaches, engineers at Johns Hopkins say "the pesky critters are **excellent role models**" – for robotics. Classroom exercises include building obstacle courses for cockroaches and observing how they use their antennae to navigate, even in the dark. Said one student, experienced in trying to build robots that can navigate based on perception, "Every time I looked at the images of the runs, I was in awe of the cockroaches' agility and speed."

The story in *National Geographic News* says engineers want to learn how the insects achieve rapid locomotion control. Cockroaches can sweep their antenna up and down and side to side when standing still to survey their surroundings, but hold them steady when running. Like radar, the antenna give them a continuous status report on their surroundings.

Some day, artificial cockroachbots may be able to crawl inside collapsed buildings looking for trapped people, or explore bat-

tlefields for missing soldiers. Actual robotics applications mimicking the antennae are "extraordinarily limited" to date, the article says:

But scientists are increasingly looking at some of **nature's solutions** to help them overcome several of the **problems** that **hamper progress** using **traditional engineering methods**. (emphasis added)

By the way, a team at Northwestern is using a different biological model system for study: rat's whiskers.

"The vermin have become our role models" sounds like something a cynical talk show host might say. But in the context of this story, it's an interesting insight into design right under our feet. Who would have thought that lowly and despised critters scurrying about in our yards (and, to our disgust sometimes, our homes) are providing scientists with a sense of awe over their engineered capabilities?

We humans are justly proud of our Mars rovers that struggle about at two inches per second and manage to avoid obstacles, but just imagine: if we could mount cameras and radio transmitters on cockroaches and release a batch out there, you can bet every nook and cranny on the whole planet would be explored in short order.

Scientists are justified to envy "nature's solutions" and try to imitate them (although "nature" is not a person). How scientists can stand in awe of the robotics capabilities of a cockroach or rat, and then turn around and say these technologies came about by the accumulation of accidents, is illogical in the extreme.

Let's learn the true lesson of biomimetics: there is a Designer out there with engineering skills vastly superior to ours. Logic would continue that if He knows this much about rapid locomotion control, He must also have a lot of other things to teach us.

Lovgren, S. 2005. Cockroaches inspire robot antenna design. *National Geographic News*, April 8.  
[http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2005/04/0408\\_050408\\_cockroachrobot.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2005/04/0408_050408_cockroachrobot.html)

## Whose Side Is Unenlightened?

Here's an opportunity for readers to compare arguments on both sides of

the debate about origins and the nature of science. Donald Kennedy, Editor-in-Chief of *Science*, wrote an editorial claiming that the sunrise of the intelligent design movement threatens "twilight for the Enlightenment." He wrote that the "retrogression to the pre-Darwinian zoologist William Paley" is undermining the heritage of David Hume and "developing conviction that substituted faith in experiment for reliance on inherited dogma."

Colson and Morse put the shoe of enlightenment on the other foot, countering that the Darwinists have been in the business of suppressing the weaknesses of their theory. They quote Rodney Stark, who wrote that evolution

... has primarily been an attack on religion by militant atheists who wrap themselves in the mantle of science in an effort to refute all religious claims concerning a creator — an effort that has also often attempted to suppress all scientific criticisms of Darwin's work.

Perhaps Kennedy could enlighten all of us by explaining how molecular machines, DNA transcription and replication with all its error-correcting mechanisms, and the human brain arose from the mindless, undirected processes of chance and natural law. He could further explain how refusing to hear honest questions about Darwinian evolution exemplifies a conviction that substitutes faith in experiment for reliance on inherited dogma.

What Darwinian science needs today is not another Enlightenment, an era that produced a mixed bag of atheists and forgotten skeptics as well as deeply spiritually-minded scientists. It needs to go back further in time to what made enlightenment possible, to the period wherein brave men challenged establishment dogma at the risk of their lives. It needs a Reformation.

Colson, C. and A. Morse. 2005. Verdict that demands evidence: Darwinists stonewall the facts. *Christianity Today* 49(4):112.

Kennedy, D. 2005. Twilight for the enlightenment? *Science* 308(5719):165.

## "Impressive" Memory Capabilities of Honeybees

A paper by international scientists begins like this:

Over the past decade, work



on the honey bee has provided growing evidence that **insects are not simple, reflexive creatures.**

They continue,

The brains of honey bees are very small, but their **ability to learn and memorize** tasks is **impressive.** (Emphasis added in quotes.)

With clever experiments, they put test bees through their paces. They found them able to discern between relevant and irrelevant clues when lost, findings that “point to a remarkably robust, and yet plastic, working memory in the honey bee.”

Bee aware: among all their expressions of amazement about the capabilities built into such a tiny insect, the authors made no mention of evolution in their paper. That may sting the Darwinists but create a real buzz elsewhere, honey.

Zhang, S., F. Bock, A. Si, J. Tautz, and M.V. Srinivasan. 2005. Visual working memory in decision making by honey bees. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (Published online before print March 28, 2005). [www.pnas.org/cgi/content/abstract/0501440102v1](http://www.pnas.org/cgi/content/abstract/0501440102v1)

## Soft Tissue from Dinosaurs Found: Intact Cells and Blood Vessels

The news media have been abuzz with exciting reports about the discovery of soft tissues recovered from a *Tyrannosaurus rex* bone. The soft tissue, analyzed from a thighbone unearthed in Montana, was reported by a North Carolina team led by Mary Higby and was announced in a recent issue of *Science* (Schweitzer, et al).

The bone contained remnants of blood vessels that were still soft and flexible when separated from the matrix, and even individual cells: “osteocytes with internal cellular contents and intact, supple filipodia that float freely in solution,” the authors say.

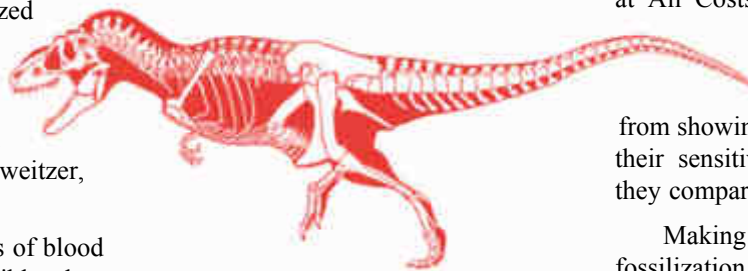
Leading dinosaur paleontologist Jack Horner described the bone as “a fantastic specimen.” The discoverers also found soft tissues in two other tyrannosaurs and one hadrosaur from the Hell Creek, Montana site. No one seems to be questioning the assumed age of the specimens being 70 million years old, even though the “geochemical and environmental factors” that could have preserved the tissues are “as

yet undetermined,” and extend to the molecular level:

Whether preservation is strictly morphological and the result of **some kind of unknown geochemical replacement process** or whether it **extends to the subcellular and molecular levels is uncertain.** However, we have **identified protein fragments** in extracted bone samples, some of which retain slight antigenicity. These data indicate that **exceptional morphological preservation** in some dinosaurian specimens **may extend to the cellular level or beyond.** (Emphasis added in all quotes.)

Erik Stokstad, in the same issue of *Science*, said that the vessels, still flexible and elastic, are not fossilized. The announcement of intact cells is leading some scientists to think they may be able to extract DNA from them (although recreating *Jurassic Park* is out of the question). Principal investigator Schweitzer said she was shocked at the find. She didn’t believe it till they repeated the extraction process 17 times. As a control, they repeated the same process on extant ostrich bones and recovered soft tissues that were “virtually indistinguishable” from those of the dinosaur.

It is not yet clear whether the original



*Illustration of reconstructed T. rex skeleton (from American Museum of Natural History). [paleo.amnh.org/projects/t-rex/](http://paleo.amnh.org/projects/t-rex/)*

molecules in the tissues and cells were preserved or were replaced by other compounds. Earlier claims of original tissue in other kinds of multi-million-year fossilized organisms turned out to show replacement. Schweitzer told the BBC, however, that “It still has places where there are **no secondary minerals**, and it’s not any more dense than modern bone; it’s bone more than anything.”

As to DNA, Stokstad quotes one expert who said, “the likelihood is probably next to none” that intact DNA could have survived for 68 million years, even if the bone was protected in stable, dry, subzero conditions all that time. The BBC reporter agreed that “the ‘life molecule’ degrades rapidly over thousand-year timescales, and the chances of a sample surviving from the Cretaceous are **not considered seriously.**” Schweitzer is seeking funds to do mass spectrometry on the tissues to find out.

This appears to falsify, in one dramatic swoop, the claim that dinosaurs died out 65 million years ago. Why don’t the scientists admit it? It’s uncanny how all the reports treat the 70 million figure like an unquestionable fact, despite the clear implications of this discovery. Notice how the BBC treats the date like dogma:

In the hotly contested field of dino research, the work will be greeted with **acclaim and disbelief** in equal measure. What **seems certain** is that some **fairly remarkable conditions** must have existed at the Montana site where the *T. rex* died, **68 million years ago.**

Seems certain to whom? Not to people with their heads screwed on, who have refused to take the oath of loyalty to the Darwin Party, or signed on to the “Committee to Protect the Geologic Column at All Costs.” We’ll have to see if the National Center for Science Education censors this paper, preventing teachers from showing it to their students, to protect their sensitive minds from anxiety when they compare it with their textbooks.

Making the excuse that the process of fossilization is not well understood is pitiful, and imagining these Montana sediments’ escaping millions of years of mountain uplift, erosion and climate change is a big stretch. Though airtight amber sometimes preserves all the details of an insect, it is incredibly improbable that soft, pliable tissues from a large dinosaur could be preserved in a sedimentary matrix for 10,000 years, let alone 70 million.

Somebody ought to press the point. The BBC explains why:

“Normally when an animal dies, worms and bugs will quickly eat up anything that is soft. Then, as

the remaining bone material gets buried deeper and deeper in the mud, it gets heated, crushed and replaced by minerals, turning it to stone.”

Schweitzer said in the *National Geographic* (NG) coverage that “our theories of how fossils are preserved don’t allow for this [soft-tissue preservation].” The pathetic response of some scientists, upon hearing this announcement, is that the soft tissue recovery might help them construct better phylogenetic trees. They seem oblivious to the fact that the data threaten to cut off the long-age limb they are sitting on.

Here is an opportunity for young-earth creationists to make a strong case. It’s easier to prove an upper limit than a lower limit: e.g., that under the best of conditions, cells or blood vessels could not be older than a maximum number of years based on lab observations. No reader could claim *by observation* that they could last millions of years. Thus, the young-age position is more conservative, cautious and empirically based. Someone should also apply carbon dating to the tissues and see if any C-14 is present. It would be below the detection threshold if the bone is as old as claimed. Watch the efforts to find out if DNA is still present, which “cannot survive that long” according to the *news@nature.com* article. These are two predictions that can be tested.

Jack Horner also said in the NG article that other dinosaurs are “probably similarly preserved,” but workers in the field are usually reluctant to damage dinosaur bones to look inside (maybe partly because they don’t expect to find soft tissue after millions of years). What this story illustrates is how scientists tend to find what they expect to find, look for what they need to find, and ask the questions prompted by their worldview. It’s instructive to notice who was surprised by this announcement.

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Stokstad, E. 2005. *Tyrannosaurus rex* soft tissue raises tantalizing prospects. *Science* 307(5717):1852.

## Descendants Can Overcome Parental Mutations

**B**ad genes from both parents may not spell doom in all cases, according to a report in *Nature*. As reported by *Purdue University News*, if two parents have bad mutations, the child can sometimes reconstruct the correct gene from the grandparents. “Our genetic training tells us that’s just not possible,” said Bob Pruitt, co-researcher on the team that ran the experiment repeatedly with the lab plant *Arabidopsis*. “This challenges everything we believe.”

Some unknown mechanism, perhaps using RNA, is storing a template of the correct sequence that the offspring can use to reconstruct the gene, they suspect. This supplements ordinary Mendelian inheritance with a means of correcting errors. About 10% of their experimental offspring were able to inherit the correct gene from the grandparents.

The report at *news@nature.com* says this finding “flabbergasts” scientists and “overturns textbook genetics.” The summary on *ScienceNow* describes this as “an inheritable cache of RNA that can **reverse evolution**, undoing mutations and restoring a gene to its former glory” (emphasis added). One of the researchers said this experiment “suggests the existence of a unique genetic memory system that can be invoked at will” to reverse harmful mutations.

It would seem that the memory would require procedures for comparing the bad gene with the template, excising the bad gene, and inserting the correct one. Whatever this mechanism is, it has been “under the radar,” says *New Scientist*, and could exist in animals and even in humans.

Trouble in the Darwin Party camp. They were counting on those lucky mutations *producing* all the glory, not mechanisms to undo mutations to restore a gene to its *former* glory. This is stasis with a vengeance. We already knew that many genetic errors are corrected in the nucleus or the cell before reproduction occurs; now, another mechanism has come to light that corrects errors after they have left the station, almost like warranty repair service.

So tell us please, Darwinians: what lucky mutation led to a system that can

correct mutations? Neo-Darwinism won’t get far if its main source of variation – mutations – is kept in check with genetic homeland security. “Reverse evolution” is not evolution at all; it’s creation. It implies there was a creation that was so elegant, it contained even a repair warranty: a mechanism to identify when something has gone wrong, and to automatically deploy resources to fix it so that the organism could restore its “former glory.”

Coghlan, A. 2005. Rogue weeds defy rules of genetics. *NewScientist.com*, March 23. [www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=dn7185](http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=dn7185)

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## Migration Theory Overturned: “Mammals Went Crazy” – Or Did Darwinists?

**T**he discovery of an elephant shrew fossil in Wyoming badlands, said to be 54 million years old, is causing a stir. Elephant shrews were thought to be endemic to Africa, the alleged cradle of mammals. This find hints not only that elephant shrews may have originated in North America instead, but also that “there may have been a great deal more interchange in terms of how animals moved around the world as the continents broke up than previously thought,” according to *EurekAlert*. This press release from the Univ. of Florida worries that this “raises questions about the origin of African mammals.”

The *Stupid Evolution Quote of the Week* award goes to the University’s Jonathan Bloch, who explained the theory of adaptive radiation in terms appropriate for a juvenile audience: “After the extinction of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago, there was an **explosion of diversity**,” he said. “**Mammals had a huge celebration** with all the big predators gone and they **just kind of took over**. They went crazy, filling all the **open ecological niches** they couldn’t have exploited while the dinosaurs were still around.”

Apparently Mr. Bloch had not heard that some mammals had dinosaurs for breakfast (see Hu, et al., 2005). He seems to be a staunch believer in the “if you build it, they will come” theory of evolution, yet he doesn’t seem alarmed that yet another plank in the evolutionary platform has just been removed. Crazy is in the eye of the beholder.

Keen, C. 2005. UF science discovery raises questions about origin of African mammals. *EurekaAlert*, March 24. [www.eurekaalert.org/pub\\_releases/2005-03/uof-usd032405.php](http://www.eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2005-03/uof-usd032405.php)

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*Editor's note: All S.O.S. (Speaking of Science) items in this issue are kindly provided by David Coppedge. Opinions expressed therein are his own. Emphasis added in all quotes. Additional commentaries and reviews of news items by David, complete with hyperlinks, can be seen at: [www.creationsafaris.com/crevnews.htm](http://www.creationsafaris.com/crevnews.htm).*

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## All by Design

by Jonathan C. O'Quinn, D.P.M., M.S.

## Accidental Antifreeze

**F**or many people, winter is a time to bring out sweaters, heavy blankets and winter coats, but what happens to cold-blooded animals during winter? The answers are nothing short of miraculous, and they continue to confound evolutionists.

Scientists have learned that many cold-blooded animals, such as spiders, polar marine fish and many insects, produce antifreeze proteins, which prevent their body fluids from freezing. These specialized proteins are designed to bind to ice crystals, so that when ice crystals begin to form within body fluids, the proteins immediately stick to them. This blocks the further addition of water molecules and keeps the body fluids in a liquid state. Furthermore, these proteins remain effective at temperatures as low as 5° F.

Depending upon their habitats, some animals need extra protection from the cold, so they produce a second type of antifreeze, a group of non-toxic sugar alcohols, such as glycerol. For example, the body fluids of gall moth caterpillars are about 40% glycerol during midwinter, allowing them to remain



inactive, yet unfrozen at temperatures as low as -36° F.

These two antifreeze strategies suggest an intelligent Designer with an understanding of chemistry, not the accidental forces of evolution. Evolutionists cannot explain how these two forms of antifreeze could have developed in stages. If the evolving antifreeze systems did not function perfectly the first time, many evolving species would have become extinct immediately. Now if the Lord cares so much for these creatures, imagine how much He must care about you and me!

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